Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

OPEN LETTERS.

Tissa vs. Buda.

As you have considered it worth while to reprint what the learned editor of the *Journal of Botany* has to say on this subject, and as he has declined to publish a note sent him by me on the same matter, apparently because afraid of the argument therein contained, I venture to request that you give me space enough to say that my decision to take up *Tissa* rather than *Buda* was reached simply from the fact that *Tissa* stands first on the page in Adanson's "Familles des Plantes." This priority of place is certainly nearly as important to enforce as priority in time of publication; it is always easily determined, and has to be considered frequently, there being numerous cases of the duplication of species or genera by authors in the same book, and often, indeed on the same page. There must be some decision reached in such cases, and I think it will generally be admitted that the name standing first should be used. I mentioned this in my paper on *Tissa* (*Bull. Torr. Club*, xv. 125), as also the acceptance of *Buda* by Dumortier.

The editor of the *Journal* uses a weak argument, when he says that from the fact of *Buda* having once been taken up, this course should be followed. On that basis where would the law of priority come in, for which he used to contend so vigorously? If he can not find a more vulnerable spot than this for criticising what he is pleased to call "the eccentricities of the neo-American school of nomenclature" he had better refrain still longer from comment. He has been refraining for so long that we began to think him converted to a rational system of nomenclature.

Tissa was first taken up at very nearly the same time by M. Baillon and Professor Greene, independently. It is accepted in Engler and Prantl's new work, so it may be remarked that the "neo American school" is not quite alone in this "eccentricity." N. L. BRITTON.

Columbia College, New York City.

NOTES AND NEWS.

AN INTRODUCTION to systematic botany by Professor C. E. Bessey will shortly be published by Henry Holt & Co.

DR. A. N. BERLESE, assistant at the Botanic Garden of Padova, Italy, has been made professor of botany at the Lycée Royal de Ascoli-Piceno.

THE Botanical Club at the Indianapolis meeting will have Dr. N. L. Britton, as presiding officer, and Professor Charles R. Barnes, as secretary.

PROFESSOR ED. PRILLEUX has recently received a prize of 4,000 francs from the French Academy of Sciences for a study of the diseases of cereals.

THE LIBRARY of the late Rev. M. J. Berkeley will be sold by John Wheldon 58, Great Queen street, London, E. C. A catalogue has been issued.

AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION of botany will be held during the present year in Belgium, and also in connection with it an exhibition of microscopy.

THE COLLEGE of Montana has conferred the degree of "Doctor of Science" upon two well known Montana botanists, Rev. F. D. Kelsey and Mr. F. V. Anderson.

DR. ALEX. TSCHIRCH, heretofore Privat-Docent in the University of Berlin, has been called to the Professorship of Pharmacy and Pharmacognosy at the University of Berne.

AN OUTING for scientific exploration and pastime is being arranged for July and August by Rev. F. H. Wales, of Tulare City, Cal., to visit Mount Whitney and vicinity in California.

BOTANISTS may be glad to know that good photographs, cabinet size, of the late Dr. C. C. Parry may be obtained of Jarvis White & Co., photographers, Davenport, Iowa, for 25 cents each.

COOKE'S ILLUSTRATIONS of British Fungi will be brought to a close with volume eight, which is to be issued during the present year. The complete work will be about $160, bound in cloth.

MANY BOTANISTS from whom papers are expected at the Association meetings come without any preparation, to the great disappointment of those who expect that all whose names are familiar in the science will take some part.

M. H. DOULIOT, in *Journal de Botanique* (June 1), has an interesting illustrated paper on the development of coniferous stems. The species considered and figured are Picea excelsa, Torreya nucifera, Cryptomeria elegans, and Sequoia sempervirens.

MR. M. C. COOKE is preparing an introduction to fresh-water Algæ, to be published by Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co, with descriptions of British genera and species, and figures of the genera. It will form a volume of the International Scientific Library.

MR. J. G. BAKER, has been appointed curator of the herbarium and library at Kew, in place of Professor Oliver, whose resignation has already been referred to. Mr. Baker has been first assistant for twenty-four years, and this promotion is surely a most worthy one.

IN *American Garden* (July), Professor L. H. Bailey writes of the "false shag-bark hickory" (*Hicoria microcarpa*, Britton), showing it to be clearly a distinct species, and not at all to be confused with the true shagbark (*Hicoria ovata*, formerly *Carya alba*), as some have thought.

ERRATUM.—In Mr. E. J. Hill's paper in the last number of the GAZETTE, there occurs a mistake on page 141, line 5 from top, which may make a wrong impression. The word "port" should read "part," as designating one of the two localities where the collections were made in Northern Michigan.

A STATUE of Linnæus will shortly be placed in Lincoln Park, Chicago, work on the foundation having already begun as we learn from the *American Florist*. The statue is now on its way from Sweden, where it was cast. It is the gift of the Swedish residents of Chicago, while the pedestal with its allegorical figures is provided by the park commissioners.

THE Division of Botany of the Department Agriculture has obtained an appropriation of $40,000 for the prosecution of botanical work during the coming year. This does not include salaries.

IT IS to be hoped that there will be no lack of botanical papers at the Indianapolis meeting. Every working botanist must have done something during the past year, and if he does not care to make a formal presentation of it before Section F., the informality of the Botanical Club will answer his purpose.

DR. LORENZO YATES, of Santa Barbara, Calif., has published a list of the known flora of the Channel Islands off the coast of Southern California, showing the collections made by Professors Greene, Brandegee, Ford and Yates. The list will be found in the Ninth Annual Report of the State Mineralogist of California.

MR. JOHN DONNELL SMITH has returned from Guatemala with another large collection of plants. Certain families are distributed among specialists in this country and Europe, for the purpose of expediting the work. Mr. Smith is to be commended for his zeal in bringing to light the botanical treasures of a very rich field.

DR. H. KLEBAHN, in a review in the *Centralblatt für Bakteriologie* und *Parasitenkunde* (vii, p. 382) of Mr. Bolley's article on epidermal rusts, published in this journal for June of last year, concurs in the view that the so-called paraphyses of Puccinia rubïgo-vera and allied species are not true paraphyses but a special form of the hyphæ.

A SERIES of colored wall charts to illustrate some of the facts of plant physiology has been begun. They are prepared by Drs. Frank and Tschirch, and published by Paul Parey of Berlin. Each chart is 69 by 85 cm., and the first set of ten, now ready, sells for 30 marks ($7.50). They are intended to do for physiological botany what Kny's wall charts, which they much resemble, do for structural botany.

IN THE KEW BULLETIN for June there is a list of the timber trees of Straits Settlements, containing 150 species. To one familiar only with American trees the family relationships of this antipodal timber seem strange enough. The families containing more than five species are as follows: Myrtaceæ 15, Euphorbiaceæ 13, Leguminosæ 11, Rubiaceæ 9, Sterculiaceæ and Urticaceæ each 8, and Burseraceæ 6.

IT HAS BEEN suggested by Dr. Beyerinck, according to the *Botanische Zeitung* (xlviii, 202), that as micro-organisms obtain no nourishment from gelatine or agar-agar, their culture on such solid media may be used to determine whether any particular soluble substance my be used by the organism under trial. The substance to be tested is placed in drops on a plate culture. If it is a nourishing substance the organism will flourish in a circle about the drop. If a poison is used a deadly influence will be noticed.

IN AN inaugural dissertation at Marburg, C. Giesenhagen discussed the growth of the cystoliths of Ficus elastica. The stalk of the cystolith consists he says, of similiar cap-like superposed membrane lamellæ. The body is constructed in like manner, except that carbonate of calcium is laid down in and between the layers. On account of this infiltration of lime the layers of the body increase in size after they are first formed. The radiating strands in the body reaching out to the points on the surface are canals filled with $CaCO_3$.

DR. A. N. BERLESE, assistant in the preparation of Saccardo's Sylloge Fungorum, proposes to issue a series of colored illustrations to accompany that work. Four parts will be published annually at 20 francs each. It will open with the Pyrenomycetes. Subscriptions may be sent to the author, whose address is Lycée Royal à Ascoli-Piceno, Italy.

AT A recent meeting of the botanical society of Munich, Dr. R. Hartig spoke of the high absorptive power of snow in respect to sulphuric and sulphurous acids, and called attention to the injury done to the conifers in newly built portions of the city by the smoke. In 16 days' exposure the amount of SO_3 in the snow increased from 7 mg. per kilo to 91.5 mg., while in nearly the same time, snow 7.5 km. west of the city absorbed less than 8 mg. per kilo. Conifers which up to three years ago had been vigorous have been destroyed, he believes, by the coal smoke coming from the residences.

THE SECTION of Vegetable Pathology of the Department of Agriculture, by a recent act of Congress, has been made a Division, so that now it is on an equal footing with the other branches of the Department. The work is now thoroughly organized with a good corps of assistants in the laboratory and field. One of Mr. Galloway's assistants is now in Europe investigating a grape vine disease there, in the hopes of getting some light on the Californian grape trouble. This Californian disease is thought to be identical with one now prevailing in Italy, Spain, and Northern Africa, and the assistant, Mr. Pierce, will visit these countries for the purpose of definitely settling the matter.

MR. ALFRED FRYER, in *Journal of Botany* (June), describes supposed hybridity in Potamogeton. His conclusions are more far reaching than a mere case of hybridity, and are as follows: (1) That nearly allied forms of Potamogeton certainly cross; (2) that these cross-bred plants are sometimes fertile; (3) that their offspring varies from seed just as artificially produced hybrids do; (4) that Potamogetons may progress from absolute sterility to more or less complete fertility, under the influence of extended time and favorable conditions. In conclusion, the author says that, if he is correct, we may safely assume that crossing of "species" has been, and still is, one of the methods by which other species are fashioned.

ARRANGEMENTS for the Indianapolis meeting are being completed in a way that will insure a very enjoyable meeting of the American Association. The Denison House has been chosen as hotel headquarters and the new and magnificent State House will admit all the sectional meetings under one roof. On Wednesday, August 20th, the first general session of the meeting will begin at 10 A. M., in the House of Representatives. The Botanical Club will hold a meeting on Thursday, August 21, in the rooms of Section F, and special arrangements are being made for their entertainment. It is expected that a larger number of botanists will be in attendance than ever before. While nothing unusual in the way of collecting can be offered, interesting ground in this great Central West will be visited, and an enjoyable time may be expected. Botanists should not only be present in large numbers, but should come prepared with papers, either for Section F, or for the Club meetings, or for both. Communications with reference to the Club should be sent to the President, Dr. N. L. Britton, Columbia College, New York, or to the Secretary, Professor Charles R. Barnes, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. All botanists intending to be present will please notify Professor John M. Coulter, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

J. BLASS objects to the usually accepted notion that the sieve portion of the fibro vascular bundle has for its special function the conduction of the nitrogenous materials, on the grounds that the sieve tubes are wanting at the place where there is the most need of nitrogenous materials, viz., the growing points; and that the conductivity of the tubes is not sufficient on account of the small size of the pores, the autumnal closing with callus, and the comparatively small number of the tubes. From his researches he comes to the conclusion that no distributive conduction of nitrogenous materials takes place through the sieve tubes, but that their function is to temporarily store nourishment for the cambium and the production of wood, just as the starch sheath does for the bast.

IN THE LAST *Pittonia* (Vol. ii, pt. 8), there are several interesting papers. Professor Greene has a paper on some N. Am. Ranunculi, in which he describes R. rugulosus (Calif.) as new, and replaces *R. ambigens* Watson by *R. obtusiusculus* Raf., *R. rhomboideus* Goldie by *R. ovalis* Raf., and *R. multifidus* Bigelow by *R. lacustris* Beck & Tracy. The same author proposes the generic name *Solanoa* for the *Schizonotus purpurascens* of the Synopt. Fl., on the ground that the generic name Schizonotus is preoccupied. Mr. J. G. Lemmon describes 3 new Californian plants, one of which is an Arcto taphylos. "New and noteworthy species," by Professor Greene, contains, among other things, 4 new species of Calochortus, a number of new Dodecatheons, a discussion of Troximon with a description of several new species, and 4 new species of Downingia.

THE WILL of the late Henry Shaw contains this clause: "I hereby bequeath $1,000 annually for a banquet to the trustees of the garden, and to the guests that they may invite, literary and scientific men, and friends and patrons of the natural sciences." The first of these banquets was given at the Southern Hotel in St. Louis on the evening of May 26th. Covers were laid for 100 guests, and many distinguished scholars of the city and elsewhere discussed an elaborate *menu*. The most distant guests were President Adkins of Corvallis, Oregon, and Dr. W. G. Farlow of Cambridge. Among the toasts we note one to Henry Shaw, responded to by the President of the Board of Directors of Washington University, Col. George F. Leighton; the future of the Missouri Botanical Garden, responded to by the Director, Dr. Wm. Trelease; and the State of Missouri, responded to by the Governor, David R. Francis. The first banquet was a grand success.

THE IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES has issued its Proceedings for 1887-9 in a neat octavo of 101 pages. It embraces only original work, and makes a creditable showing. The botanical papers are seven in number: two by R. E. Call on "Some ferns of the Ozark region of Missouri" and "Notes on native forest trees of eastern Arkansas;" three by L. H. Pammel on "Beggiatoa alba and the dying of fish in Iowa," "Some fungous diseases of fruit trees in Iowa" and "A cherry disease;' a list of twenty "Ferns of Muscatine county, Iowa,' by F. M. Witter; and "Notes on a fossil wood from the Keokuk limestone" by C. H. Gordon. It is curious to note that there is no mention of the previous existence of a society with the same name, partly the same membership and a similar constitution, except an incidental reference in the president's 1888 address. The earlier society under the leadership of Professor C. E. Bessey did good work, had an existence of ten years, and had become inactive but two years before the new society was formed. Its only published record of proceedings was printed in 1880.